

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Business and Tourism Activity Panel
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM

Location: Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Attendance: Dave Ebert, BTAP Chair, SAC Business/Industry Representative

Rachel Saunders, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Huff McGonigal, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Michael Bekker, Cannery Row Company, Monterey

Steve Schieblauer, Monterey Harbor, City of Monterey

Annie Schnorf, Moss Landing Harbor District

Meeting Notes – a Brief Summary of the Meeting’s Proceedings.

Welcome and Introductions: Dave E., BTAP Chair gave welcoming comments and individual introductions commenced.

JMPR Proposed Action Plans and Upcoming July 30-August 1, 2003 Sanctuary

Advisory Council Meeting: The focus of the BTAP meeting was to review and discuss some of the draft action plans to prepare for the upcoming SAC decision making meeting at the end of the month. The following draft plans were identified and very briefly discussed:

- Desalination – Mike B. commented that this was a good working group, lots of information gathered and a consensus on the direction was reached.
- Harbors and Disposal – Steve S. commented that consensus had been reached on many specific products (strategies and activities), but that the harbors were still interested in the creation of buffers around harbors and still had larger concerns about the Sanctuary program’s overall permit authority.
- Davidson Seamount – Steve S. commented that fishermen were still very concerned about potential restrictions on pelagic fishing, even though the focus of including the Davidson Seamount in the Sanctuary would be to protect against disturbance of the seabed. Steve suggested that there might be other management alternatives rather than including this area in the Sanctuary.
- Special MPA’s – Steve S. commented that progress was being made, but that it was his impression that a full consensus hadn’t been reached.
- Benthic Habitats – there may be a name change for this group to make clear it is focused on bottom trawling.
- Krill Harvesting – the Sanctuary is working to pursue a ban on krill harvesting through the Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- Fishing Related Research and Education – Steve S. commented that consensus was reached on the action plan; he also emphasized that the fishing community wanted the opportunity to comment on educational/outreach materials the Sanctuary produces that include information on fishing activities.
- Wildlife Disturbance – comments suggested that this was primarily a user conflict and that the Sanctuary is charged with facilitating multiple uses.

- Operations and Administration Action Plan – Steve S. was critical of Strategy OA-3 pertaining to the Sanctuary Advisory Council. He commented that it did not address the continuing concerns about the structure and function of the SAC that have been raised by the City of Monterey, AMBAG and Congressman Farr. He stated that the existing SAC and the Sanctuary Program could not provide an objective evaluation of the SAC and that an outside group should be tapped to do an audit.
- Action Plans on Introduced Species, Big Sur Coastal Ecosystem Coordination, Cruise Ship Discharges and the Beach Closures and Contamination were also mentioned briefly.

Towards the end of the discussion Steve S. commented that what was still missing from the overall plan was a clarification of language regarding the Sanctuary's role in fisheries management. He reiterated that this was a trust issue and that the fishing community was still looking for that assurance that the Sanctuary will not regulate fishing.

Next BTAP Meeting: The meeting adjourned around 11:30 a.m. The next scheduled BTAP meeting is September 17, 2003 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Moss Landing Marine Lab.